

Star Service Shop
130 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis
Marion County
Indiana

HABS No. IND-72

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IND-72

STAR SERVICE SHOP

Location: 130 North Illinois Street, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana.

Present Owner: Mutual Hospital Insurance Company.

Present Use: Demolished.

Statement of Significance: This small one story shop has a gabled roof and a row of high windows along the north wall. It has a large entrance arch, similar in appearance to many early nickelodeons.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Ca. 1910-1920.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Alterations and additions: There is a low 10-foot addition of unknown date at the rear of the building. In 1954 a small kitchen was added behind the structure by Bohlen, Meyer, Gibson & Associates, Architects. This addition did not connect to the structure but to a building immediately south of it and known at the time as the Blue Cross Building.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: From its appearance this building was thought to have been a nickelodeon, however, no documentary evidence has been found to support or deny this possibility. A photograph (circa 1930 based on the automobiles visible in it) shows signs in the window of the building mentioning hats and suits. The sign further indicates the tenant's intention to move to another location. (Bass Photo # 323164, collection archived with the Indiana Historical Society). "Motion Picture Theaters in Indianapolis," a manuscript written by Charles Eiler (Indianapolis Public Library, main building, March 10, 1970), and based on city directory information does not mention a theater at 130 North Illinois Street prior to 1941. There was, however, a theater listed at 136 North Illinois. It was known as the Palms in 1914 and the Cozy in 1930.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Bass Photo # 323164, collection archived at the Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis.
- b. Eiler, Charles. "Motion Picture Theaters in Indianapolis," manuscript dated March 10, 1970, archived at main building, Indianapolis Public Library.
- c. Sanborn Fire Maps, Assessor's Office, City and County Building, Indianapolis.

Prepared by Wesley I. Shank
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
December 10, 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Brick one-story structure, gable end to street, with modern store front.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, but altered.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 22' x 45' approximately, scaled from Sanborn Fire Maps at Indianapolis Assessor's Office. The rear 10 feet is an addition and is lower than the rest of the building.
2. Wall construction: Yellow brick laid up in common bond.
3. Structural system, framing: Brick, load bearing walls.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The original doorway, set into a large round arch at the front of the building, has been filled and a modern store front has been constructed. An aluminum frame double glass door has been installed to provide an entrance into the building.
 - b. Windows: Two large modern picture windows have been set into the front of the building. A modern window is also

set in at the northeast corner of the building. There is a row of five high windows along the north wall which are original.

5. Roof:

- a. Shape: Gable.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Denticulated cornice on gable end. At the north and south corners of the east (gable) facade, stylized capitals surmount the applied brick pilasters. The capitals have central decorative motif of five overlapping circles set into a rectangular panel.

C. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: Urban, the building faces east on a city street.

Prepared by Candace Reed
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
February 1977